



Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Advancing Excellence in Health Care www.ahrq.gov

State Estimates of Employer-Sponsored Health Insurance

Medical Expenditure Panel Survey – Insurance Component

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SHADAC State Survey Workshop

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MEPS-Insurance Component

- Nationwide, annual survey of both private and public sector establishments
- Sponsored by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)
- Collected by the Census Bureau
- Survey began in 1996 with estimates for 40 largest States
- Since 2003, estimates are available for all States and DC
- Most recent data available are 2006



Published Estimates from the MEPS-Insurance Component

- Each year the MEPS-IC produces 280 tables of State-level estimates for private-sector employers:
 - Premiums and contributions
 - Deductibles and copayments
 - Enrollments
 - Take-up rates
 - Others (i.e., percent of employees offered more than one plan, don't make a contribution to premiums)
- Public-sector estimates are not available at the state level – only at the Census Region level
- All MEPS-IC estimates currently produced are direct survey-based estimates



Published Estimates from the MEPS-Insurance Component

- State-level estimates are broken out by:
 - Firm Size
 - Industry Groupings
 - Ownership Type
 - Age of Firm
 - Proportion of Employees Who Are Full-time
 - Proportion of Employees Who Are Low-wage
 - Average Wage Quartiles



Published Estimates from the MEPS-Insurance Component

- Starting in 2002, MEPS-IC produces a smaller set of private-sector estimates for:
 - 20 largest Metro Areas in the United States (by small/large firms)
 - The largest Metro Areas in each State (at least one per State) and the Remainder of the State
- All State and Metro Area estimates are available on-line in Excel and CSV spreadsheet formats in addition to HTML and PDF tables

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MEPS Medical Expenditure Panel Survey

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About MEPS	The Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS) is a set of large-scale surveys of families and individuals, their medical providers, and employers across the United States. MEPS is the most complete source of data on the cost and use of health care and health insurance coverage. Learn more about MEPS.	New to MEPS? Select a profile: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• General User• Researcher• Policymaker• Survey participant• Media
Survey Components		
Data and Statistics	MEPS Topics <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Access to Health Care• Children's Health• Children's Insurance Coverage• Chronic Conditions• Dental• Elderly• Health Care Costs• Health Care Disparities• Health Insurance• Medicare/Medicaid/SCHIP• Mental Health• Minority Health• Obesity• Prescription Drugs• Projected Data• Quality of Health Care• State and Metro Area Estimates• The Uninsured• Women's Health	
Communication	What's New Highlights Upcoming Event Registration is now open for a MEPS data users workshop featuring introductory lectures, programming exercises, and hands-on computer lab. The workshop will take place May 3-4, 2007, at the AHRQ Data Center, Rockville, MD. The registration period is March 15-April 16. Go to Workshops & Events to learn more details. New Publications While almost half of visits for office-based physician care were to doctors in general practice, family practice, internal medicine, or pediatrics, less than one-third of total expenditures were for visits to these types of physicians. — from Statistical Brief 166: Expenses for Office-Based Physician Visits by Specialty, 2004	

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MEPS Topics: State and Metro Area Estimates

Select a topic for information on the relevant resources available on this site.

State and Metro Area Estimates

Description: MEPS provides state-level health insurance data for employer-sponsored plans through the MEPS-IC. Beginning in 2004, MEPS-IC also provides a subset of these data for selected metropolitan areas. MEPS-IC data files are not available for downloading.

Beginning in 2003, MEPS-HC provides state-level health care cost data for the largest states. The MEPS-HC public use data files that are available for download do not contain state-level identifiers. This information is available through the AHRQ Data Center for approved research projects.

Data tables: For tables specifically on state- and metro-level employer-sponsored health insurance, go to the [State and Metro Area Tables – Insurance Component](#). The data, broken out by state, is also available in [spreadsheet format](#). For tables specifically on state-level health care costs, go to the [State-Level Medical Expenditures](#).

Analytic tools: The [MEPSnet/IC](#) query tool provides easy access to state-level statistics and trends about employer-based health insurance.

Publications: Publications are listed in reverse chronological order (most recent first).

Special State-level Estimates from the MEPS-IC

- Spreadsheets with State-level estimates for self-insured and fully-insured plans are distributed to a mailing list of State and Federal data users
- Special requests from State governments and Federal agencies for more detailed breakouts are handled on an individual basis
 - Estimates often tied to proposed or pending legislation
 - Distributional estimates
 - Estimates for specific sub-categories (i.e., geographic areas within State)



Special State-level Estimates from the MEPS-IC

- AHRQ has partnered in years past with State and Federal agencies to allow the purchase of additional sample to improve estimates for specific States:
 - Through the HRSA State-Planning Grant Program
 - Increased samples in selected years for 32 States and a special collection for the U.S. Virgin Islands
 - Through Contract or Grant
 - Arkansas, Massachusetts, Wisconsin, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation



State Estimates available from MEPS Household Survey (MEPS-HC)

- The MEPS-HC survey produces State-level estimates of:
 - Percent of persons with an expense
 - Mean expense per person with an expense
 - Percent of total expenses paid out-of-pocket for:
 - Total Health Services
 - Dental Services
 - Prescription Drugs
 - Office-Based Medical Provider Services
- Estimates are available for the 29 largest States



What's New?

- MEPS-IC transitioned from a retrospective data collection to a current data collection in 2008
- Bad news – No MEPS-IC state data for 2007
- Good news – 2008 MEPS-IC state data will be available a full year earlier - in July 2009



MEPS-IC Small Area Estimation Plans

- Currently all of our published data are based on direct estimates
- Limited number of sub-state estimates
- Research on the comparison of direct, mixed model, and Bayesian estimates at the MSA level
- Interest in investigating other approaches for producing model-based sub-state estimates